(b) The cumulative trade deficit for April-December, 2008 has increased to US $ 93.8 billion from a level of US $ 88.6 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year. The international oil prices influences India's trade deficit significantly as POL constitutes a major component of both India's export and import baskets. As the uncertainty in oil prices still continues, it will be difficult to anticipate the level of trade deficit during the balance period of current year.

(c) Global slowdown has adversely effected India's traditional employment intensive exports like Gems and Jewellery, Textiles, Leather and Manufactures, Marine products, Carpets, Handicrafts, etc. On import side, the deceleration was mainly in export related commodities like Gold, Silver, Pearls, Precious and Semi-precious Stones.

Import from China

249. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that imports from China have exceeded Rs.40,000 crores during 2008-09;

(b) if so, whether Government is contemplating making out a case of dumping and considering steps against dumping; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the statistics of DGCI and S the imports from China from April 2008 to August 2008 were of the volume of Rs 59 699 Crore.

(b) and (c) Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) initiates anti-dumping investigation on receiving a fully documented petition from the domestic industry with prima-facie evidence of dumping in the country, injury to domestic industry and causal link between the dumped goods and injury. Such petitions submitted by domestic industry are processed as per the procedures and within the time limits specified under the Customs tariff act, 1975 as amended in 1995 and the rules made there under. These laws are in consonance with WTO's agreement on implementation of Article VI of the GATT 1994 (commonly known as the Agreement on Anti-Dumping). After investigation, the DGAD submits its Preliminary/Final findings to the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance recommending, wherever appropriate, the amount of anti-dumping duty to be levied. Acting upon such recommendations of the DGAD, the Department of Revenue may impose the provisional or definitive duties, In 2008-09, DGAD has so far initiated fourteen (14) anti-dumping cases involving China PR. In two of these cases, preliminary findings have been issued.

Increase in patent applications

†250. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of patent applications has gone up considerably during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of patent applications received and the patents issued by Government during the last three years;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the proportion of Indian patent is considerably low at international level; and

(e) if so, the extent thereof and measure being taken to bridge this gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of patent applications received and the patents granted by the Indian Patent Office during the last three years are given below:

Year	Patent applications filed			Patents granted		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2005-06	4521	19984	24505	1396	2924	4320
2006-07	5314	23626	28940	1907	5632	7539
2007-08	6040	29178	35218	3173	12088	15261

(d) and (e) Though there has been a constant rise in the domestic patenting activity, the proportion of domestic patent applications and patent grants is less as compared to those from foreign countries. The details are as in the table given in reply to part (b) above. The patents in force in India per million population was 15.24 in 2006 as compared to the world average of 932.68. This has been worked out on the basis of population figures given in the United Nations Population Fund Report: State of World Population 2006 (world: 6,540.3 million, India: 1,119.5 million); and the number of patents in force during 2006 (world: 6.1 million, as per data given in world Intellectual Property Organisation Patent Report: A Statistical Review, 2008; India: 17,066, as per the Annual Report 2006-07 of the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks). To bridge this gap and to strengthen the intellectual property system in the country, the Government has taken the following measures:

(i) A scheme of Modernisation of Intellectual Property offices at a cost of Rs.153.00 crore was implemented during the Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plans for infrastructure development, computerization, human resource development and training and awareness.

(ii) Four new integrated Intellectual Property Offices were set up in Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai.

(iii) Work for the setting up of the National Institute of Intellectual Property Management at Nagpur has commenced.

(iv) E-filing of Patent applications has been made operational with effect from 20th July, 2007.

(v) Seminars/Conferences/Workshops at national and international level have been organized for creating awareness and promotion of Intellectual Property Rights.

(vi) Memoranda of Understanding have been signed between India and Australia, European Patent office, France, Germany, Japan, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and United States of America for cooperation in the field of Intellectual Property Rights.

(vii) To further strengthen and upgrade the Intellectual Property Offices, the Government has launched a scheme in the Eleventh Five Year Plan for Modernisation and Strengthening of Intellectual Property Offices at an estimated cost of Rs. 300 crore.

(viii) The measures taken by the Government enabled the Indian Patent Office to be recognised as an International Searching Authority and International Preliminary Examining Authority under the Patent Cooperation Treaty of World Intellectual Property Organisation and a possible accession to the Madrid Protocol for the international registration of Marks.

Scam in import of pulses

251. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scam amounting to crores in State Trading Corporation (STC) relating to import of pulses;

(b) whether matter is under investigation by CBI; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) CBI has registered an RC on 11.12.2007 against three managers of STC and two private parties in the matter of import of and sale of 30,000 MT black Mapte (Urad Whole) by STC during 2006-07 under the subsidy policy of Government of India.

(c) CBI report is awaited.

Financial concessions to export-oriented industrial units

†252. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise percentage of trade by export-oriented industrial units in the total import-export trade of the country during the last three years;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.